

modern, which has come under my observation, none appear to me so pure as that of Jesus. He who follows this steadily need not, I think, be uneasy, although he cannot comprehend the subtilities and mysteries erected on his doctrines by those who, calling themselves his special followers and favorites, would make him to come into the world to lay snares for all understandings but theirs. These metaphysical heads, usurping the judgment sent of God, denounce as his enemies all who cannot perceive the geometrical logic of Euclid in the demonstrations of St. Athanasius, that three are one, and one is three; and yet that the one is not three nor the three one. In all essential points you and I are of the same religion; and I am too old to go into inquiries and changes as to the unessential. (To William Canby, 1813. C VI, 210.)

RELIGION.—I very much suspected that if thinking men would have the courage to think for themselves, and to speak what they think, it would be found they do not differ in religious opinions as much as is supposed. I remember to have heard Dr. Priestly say, that if all England would candidly examine themselves and confess they would find that Unitarianism was really the religion of all; and I observe a bill is now pending in Parliament for the relief of Anti-Trinitarians. It is too late in the day for men of sincerity to pretend they believe in the Platonic mysticisms that three are one, and one is three; and yet that the one is not three, and the three are not one, to divide mankind by a single letter into Homoiousians and Homooousians. But this constitutes the craft, the power and the profit of the priests. Sweep away their gossamer fabrics of factitious religion, and they would catch no more flies. We should all then, like the Quakers, live without an order of priests, moralize for ourselves, follow the oracle of conscience, and say nothing about what no man can understand, nor therefore believe; for I suppose belief to be the assent of the mind to an intelligible proposition. (To John Adams, 1813. C. VI., 191.)

RELIGION.—I must ever believe that religion substantially good which produces an honest life, and we have been authorized by one whom you and I equally respect, to judge of the